

### REMARKS

The remarks below are in response to final Office Action. As the remarks fail to raise any new issues, the remarks should be substantively considered at this juncture. In the Office Action, Claims 1-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,889,197 to Derek Lidow (hereinafter "the Lidow '197 patent"). The following remarks traverse this rejection and it is therefore respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and the claims be allowed.

Claim 1 of the present application generally recites a supply chain visibility system including 1) graphical user interfaces for presenting a) a configuration panel for displaying an agreed-upon configuration, b) a template panel for displaying a common set of parts to each of a plurality of effectivities, c) a statement of work panel for displaying a required final set of parts for each of the effectivities derived from the common set of parts and d) a shipping entry panel configured to receive shipping status data on actual parts being shipped from the suppliers and needed to complete the required final set of parts; and 2) a processing element for comparing the shipping status data received by the shipment entry panel to the shipping status of the actual parts and updating the shipping status of the actual parts.

The Lidow '197 patent describes a supply chain architecture having a centralized supply chain server that is communicably connected to customers, suppliers, logistics providers, carriers and financial institutions. The supply chain server receives forecasts from customers detailing the customers' orders. The supply chain server analyzes these forecasts to ensure that the forecast conform to contractual arrangements and do not contain errors. Once the forecast is validated, the supply chain server sends the forecasted demands to at least one supplier. The supply chain server then controls processes involved in the distribution of the product from the suppliers to the customers including the generation and payment of invoices.

As noted above, independent Claim 1 recites, among other elements, a graphical user interface capable of presenting "a template panel operable to display a common set of parts that are common to each of the plurality of effectivities, the common set of parts being those parts necessary to assembly at least a portion of the final configuration of each of the effectivities". The Lidow '197 patent does not teach or suggest any type of template panel for displaying a

common set of parts that are common to each of a plurality of effectivities, as set forth by independent Claim 1. Indeed, the Lidow '197 patent does not teach or suggest any type of display of a common set of parts that are common to each of a plurality of effectivities and, moreover, does not discuss a common set of parts in any context. In this regard, the Lidow '197 patent is not attempting to generalize or define commonalities between each of a plurality of effectivities as in the claimed invention, but is, in effect, directed to arranging for the supply of and payment for specific customer orders.

The Official Action suggests that the template panel that is operable to display a common set of parts is taught or suggested by the "supplier product" 278 as shown in Figure 17. In contrast to the claimed invention, however, supplier product 278 is the actual product that was shipped. See column 23, line 67 - column 24, line 1 of the Lidow '197 patent. See also column 25, line 48 - column 26, line 26. According, neither supplier product 278 nor any other portion of the Lidow '197 patent teaches or suggest "a template panel operable to display a common set of parts that are common to each of the plurality of effectivities, the common set of parts being those parts necessary to assemble at least a portion of final configuration of each of the effectivities", as recited independent Claim 1.

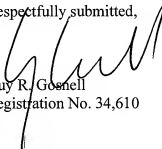
For the reasons above, it is submitted that the Lidow '197 patent fails to teach or suggest Claim 1 of the present application. In a manner similar to Claim 1, independent Claim 16 also recites, among other things, "displaying, using a template panel of each graphical user interface, a common set of parts that are common to each of the plurality of effectivities". Thus, Claim 16 is not taught or suggested by the Lidow '197 patent for at least the same reasons as described above in conjunction with Claim 1. The remaining Claims 2-15 and 17-29 depend from, and further patentably distinguish, independent Claims 1 or 16. The rejections of Claims 1-29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) have therefore been overcome.

In view of the remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-29 of the present application are in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued in due course. The Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

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Reply to Office action of December 14, 2006

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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